

# Senate Study Bill 3131

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BILL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to programs administered by the commission on  
2 volunteer service by establishing Iowa summer youth corps and  
3 green corps programs, creating the Iowa summer youth corps  
4 account and making appropriations from the account, excluding  
5 certain payments provided to an AmeriCorps volunteer from  
6 state income tax, and providing a retroactive applicability  
7 provision.  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
9 TLSB 5497XD 82  
10 jp/nh/24

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15H.5 IOWA SUMMER YOUTH CORPS.  
1 2 1. For the purposes of this section, "service=learning"  
1 3 means a teaching and learning strategy that integrates  
1 4 meaningful community service with instruction and reflection  
1 5 to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility,  
1 6 and strengthen communities.  
1 7 2. The Iowa summer youth corps program is established to  
1 8 provide meaningful summer enrichment programming to Iowa  
1 9 youth. The program shall be administered by the Iowa  
1 10 commission on volunteer service by issuing grants for projects  
1 11 implemented in accordance with program requirements. The  
1 12 commission shall adopt administrative rules for the program,  
1 13 including but not limited to incentives, grant criteria, and  
1 14 grantee selection processes.  
1 15 3. The program shall provide grants for projects that  
1 16 utilize a service=learning approach during the summer months  
1 17 to enhance student achievement and summer learning retention,  
1 18 teach meaningful job skills to Iowa youth, engage Iowa youth  
1 19 in their communities, and provide positive youth development  
1 20 experiences. The service=learning approach shall be  
1 21 integrated into the program using science, technology,  
1 22 engineering, mathematics, social studies, civic literacy, or  
1 23 other appropriate curricula identified by the department of  
1 24 education.  
1 25 4. The program shall involve the youth participating in  
1 26 the program in service=learning activities with one or more of  
1 27 the following focuses:  
1 28 a. Energy conservation in the youth's community, including  
1 29 conducting educational outreach on energy conservation and  
1 30 working to improve energy efficiency in low=income housing and  
1 31 public spaces.  
1 32 b. Emergency and disaster preparedness.  
1 33 c. Improving access to and obtaining the benefits from  
1 34 providing computers and other emerging technologies in public  
1 35 settings, including in low=income or rural communities, senior  
2 1 centers and communities, schools, libraries, and other public  
2 2 settings.  
2 3 d. Mentoring of middle school youth while involving all  
2 4 participants in service=learning to address unmet human,  
2 5 educational, environmental, public safety, or emergency  
2 6 disaster preparedness needs in the participants' community.  
2 7 e. Establishing or implementing summer of service projects  
2 8 during the summer months. Budgeting for a summer of service  
2 9 project shall include the cost of recruitment, training, and  
2 10 placement of service=learning coordinators. A summer of  
2 11 service project shall comply with all of the following  
2 12 requirements:  
2 13 (1) Youth participating in a project will be enrolled in

2 14 grades six through twelve in the school year which begins  
2 15 immediately following the end of a project.  
2 16 (2) The focus of each project shall be community-based  
2 17 service-learning activities that address unmet human,  
2 18 educational, environmental, emergency and disaster  
2 19 preparedness, and public service needs. Environmental needs  
2 20 addressed may include energy conservation, water quality, and  
2 21 land stewardship.

2 22 (3) The activities for each project shall be intensive,  
2 23 structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable  
2 24 improvements to the community. The activities may include the  
2 25 extension of school year service-learning programs into the  
2 26 summer months.

2 27 5. a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program  
2 28 shall be paid from appropriations and other funds credited to  
2 29 the Iowa summer youth corps account for purposes of the  
2 30 program, which account shall be created within the department  
2 31 of economic development under the authority of the commission.  
2 32 Moneys available in the account for a fiscal year are  
2 33 appropriated to the commission to be used for the program.

2 34 b. The commission shall manage the program in a manner to  
2 35 maximize the leveraging of federal, local, and private funding  
3 1 opportunities that increase or amplify program impact and  
3 2 service-learning opportunities. The commission shall also  
3 3 encourage collaboration with, and utilization of, other  
3 4 national and community service programs.

3 5 c. The commission shall give priority consideration to  
3 6 approving those projects that target communities that have  
3 7 disproportionately high rates of juvenile crime or low rates  
3 8 of high school graduation.

3 9 d. The commission shall include progress information  
3 10 concerning implementation of the program in the quarterly  
3 11 reports made to the governor and general assembly in  
3 12 accordance with section 15H.2.

3 13 6. a. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of chapter  
3 14 8A, subchapter IV, or chapter 96, a person participating in  
3 15 the Iowa summer youth corps program shall be exempt from merit  
3 16 system requirements and shall not be eligible to receive  
3 17 unemployment compensation benefits.

3 18 b. If a stipend is provided to a youth participating in  
3 19 the program, the youth shall be age fourteen through eighteen.

3 20 c. A youth participating in a summer of service project  
3 21 that either has an education award or no compensation shall  
3 22 comply with the grade level requirements specified for summer  
3 23 of service project participation.

3 24 d. A project that uses funding for an AmeriCorps young  
3 25 adult component within the project design shall limit  
3 26 participation in the component to young adults who are age  
3 27 eighteen through twenty-five at the time of enrollment in the  
3 28 project.

3 29 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.6 IOWA GREEN CORPS PROGRAM.

3 30 1. The Iowa commission on volunteer service, in  
3 31 collaboration with the department of natural resources, the  
3 32 department of workforce development, and the utilities board  
3 33 of the department of commerce shall establish an Iowa green  
3 34 corps program. The commission shall work with the  
3 35 collaborating agencies in developing a strategy for leveraging  
4 1 additional financial resources for the program from private  
4 2 utilities, local municipalities, and federal funding sources.

4 3 2. The program shall utilize AmeriCorps or Iowa summer  
4 4 youth corps program volunteers to provide capacity building  
4 5 activities, training, and implementation of major  
4 6 transformative projects in communities. The project selection  
4 7 shall emphasize energy efficiency, historic preservation, and  
4 8 storm water reduction and management.

4 9 3. The capacity building activities shall be targeted in  
4 10 communities that are already working with existing community  
4 11 improvement programs, including but not limited to the Iowa  
4 12 great places program established under section 303.3C and the  
4 13 green streets program administered by the department of  
4 14 economic development.

4 15 Sec. 3. Section 422.7, Code Supplement 2007, is amended by  
4 16 adding the following new subsection:

4 17 NEW SUBSECTION. 23. Subtract, to the extent included, the  
4 18 amount of AmeriCorps living allowance payments and federal  
4 19 Segal education award payments.

4 20 Sec. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The provision of this  
4 21 Act amending section 422.7 is retroactively applicable to  
4 22 January 1, 2008, and is applicable on and after that date.

4 23 EXPLANATION

4 24 This bill relates to programs administered by the

4 25 commission on volunteer service by establishing Iowa summer  
4 26 youth corps and green corps programs, creating the Iowa summer  
4 27 youth corps account and making appropriations from the  
4 28 account, excluding certain payments provided to an AmeriCorps  
4 29 volunteer from state income tax, and providing a retroactive  
4 30 applicability provision.

4 31 New Code section 15H.5 establishes the Iowa summer youth  
4 32 corps program under the authority of the commission to provide  
4 33 meaningful summer enrichment programming to Iowa youth,  
4 34 requires the program to be implemented by grants for projects,  
4 35 defines the term "service-learning", requires the  
5 1 participating youth to be engaged with various specified  
5 2 service-learning activities, outlines requirements for "summer  
5 3 of service" projects for youth who will be entering grades six  
5 4 through 12, creates an Iowa summer youth corps account, and  
5 5 appropriates any funding available in the account to the  
5 6 commission for the program.

5 7 A participant in the youth corps program is exempt from  
5 8 state merit system requirements and is not eligible to receive  
5 9 unemployment compensation benefits. If a stipend is provided,  
5 10 the participant must be age 14 through 18. If a project uses  
5 11 funding for an AmeriCorps young adult component, participation  
5 12 in the component is limited to young adults who are age 18  
5 13 through 25 at the time of enrollment.

5 14 New Code section 15H.6 directs the commission on volunteer  
5 15 service, in collaboration with the departments of natural  
5 16 resources and workforce development, and the utilities board,  
5 17 to establish an Iowa green corps program. The program is  
5 18 required to use AmeriCorps or Iowa summer youth corps program  
5 19 volunteers to provide capacity building activities, training,  
5 20 and implementation of major transformative projects in  
5 21 communities. The project selection shall emphasize energy  
5 22 efficiency, historic preservation, and storm water reduction  
5 23 and management. The capacity building activities are required  
5 24 to be targeted to communities that are already working with  
5 25 existing community improvement programs.

5 26 Code section 422.7 is amended to exclude from state  
5 27 individual income tax the amount of AmeriCorps living  
5 28 allowance payments and federal Segal education award payments.  
5 29 This provision applies retroactively to January 1, 2008, for  
5 30 tax years beginning on or after that date.

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